

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 10 are amended and claims 12-16 are added.

In the Amendment filed on November 12, 2002, Applicant requested that all further communications from the Patent Office be forwarded to Oliff & Berridge, PLC, in accordance with the Notice Regarding Power of Attorney mailed on March 1, 2002. As the outstanding Office Action was mailed to an incorrect address, Applicant again requests the address change be noted and all further communications be sent to Oliff & Berridge, PLC.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,282,053 to MacLeod et al. (MacLeod). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that MacLeod does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, MacLeod does not disclose a rotary electric machine, comprising an intermediate member, ... and the intermediate member is deformed in a depressed manner by reducing an axial height of the intermediate member at the contact portion and keeping an axial height at a portion other than the contact portion, as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 10.

MacLeod discloses a spindle for a disk drive assembly for a computer. The stator 80 of MacLeod is disposed on a stator bed 102 of the base 100 and retained in place by three fastener assemblies 104 (col. 5, lines 49-50). The stator bed 102 is shaped to prevent radial movement of the stator 80. The fastener assembly 104 includes a clamp spring 106, clamp washer 108 and fastener 110, which attaches to the flange surface 112 of the base 100. The clamp spring 106 is made of stainless steel, and during bending acts as a spring. A clamping force is provided by the clamp spring 106 on the stator surface 96. The function of the clamp washer 108 is to prevent any damage to the coating 98 or the core 84 caused by the clamp spring 106 as the bolt 110 is tightened. Thus, the clamp washer bolt and clamp spring merely

act to hold the stator core in position, i.e., to prevent the core from moving in an axial direction. The stator bed 102 is shaped to prevent radial movement of the stator, i.e., from spinning as the rotor 40 spins about the stationary shaft 20.

Furthermore, although the Office Action alleges that MacLeod discloses an intermediate member 108 (the washer), the washer does not act as an intermediate member as recited in the rejected claims. For example, the washer is not deformed in a depressed manner by reducing an axial height of the intermediate member at the contact portion and keeping an axial height at a portion other than the contact portion. Rather, as shown in Figs. 7 and 8 of MacLeod, neither the clamp spring 106 or the washer 108 are deformed as recited in the claims, but rather merely bend, preferably in an amount between 10 and 30° (col. 6, lines 6-11). Thus, MacLeod does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 10 and 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,699,366 to Wood. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that Wood does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Wood does not disclose a rotary electric machine, comprising a bolt having an enlarged diameter part for fixing the stator core to the housing by pressing one axial end portion of the stator core by the enlarged diameter part, wherein the stator core has a cavity at a radially outer most axial end portion of the stator core, and the enlarged diameter part contacts the stator core in the cavity and a bolt is disposed on the housing located radially outside of the stator core.

Rather, in Wood, a field 16 is secured in place by bolts 27 threaded through bolt holes formed in the field 16 and secured to pedestals 41 of an insulating spacer 26. The forward edge of the field 16 is received by a detents 37 formed on an inner wall of the metal enclosure

25. Thus, Wood does not disclose a stator core having a cavity at a radially outer most axial end portion of the stator core, and the enlarged diameter parts of the bolt contacts the stator core in the cavity. Furthermore, the bolts in Wood are not disposed on the housing located radially outside of the stator core. Rather, the bolts 27 of Wood are completely within the housing 13 of Wood. Thus, Wood does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 4-6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), be withdrawn.

Applicant also asserts that neither Wood nor MacLeod, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in new claims 12-16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, as well as new claims 12-16, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JWF/lrd

Attachment:
Replacement Sheet

Date: May 12, 2003

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